

Candidate For The Executive Committee : Entrada # 367**Name of Centre/Network:**

ASSITEJ South Africa

Name of Candidate:

Yvette Hardie

Presentation of candidate:

YVETTE HARDIE is a theatre producer, director, educator, and writer active in the world of theatre and performance, with a particular focus on theatre for young audiences. She initiated the launch of ASSITEJ SA (the national centre of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People) in 2007, and leads the organisation in the capacity of National Director. She has created and overseen numerous national and international projects to ensure access to theatre for children, to support and mentor artists making theatre for these age groups, to empower education through engagements between professional theatre and artists and the education system and to advocate for the importance of theatre and the arts within the South African context and challenges. Some of these projects include: Theatre4Youth, Kickstarter Educational Empowerment, Inspiring a Generation, ASSITEJ Family Fare Platforms and festivals and various mentorship and workshop programmes. She has also managed to raise the profile of theatre for young audiences in the country by ensuring that major awards are now given to artists in the field and that the theatre industry generally participates in the Take a child to the theatre today campaign. ASSITEJ South Africa has grown under her stewardship from a volunteer organisation to a non-profit organisation, recognised and celebrated in the South African theatre landscape, and attracting a number of exciting artists to the field.

Internationally, she served as Treasurer for ASSITEJ (2008-2011), was elected President of the international ASSITEJ in 2011 and is currently serving her second term in the role. She sits on the boards of ITYARN (the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network) and of Global Arts Corps. She has written and spoken extensively on issues relating to theatre for young audiences, arts education and arts for reconciliation and conflict resolution at conferences and events around the globe. She was responsible for driving the process to bring the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival to Cape Town in May of this year. This will be the first time that this mega-event, titled Cradle of Creativity, will be held in Africa in the 52 year history of the international association.

She has been Festival Director of the Out The Box Festival of Puppetry and Visual Performance 2011, having served as Family Festival Curator. She produced the award-winning Colonnades Lab production, Truth in Translation, which toured for three years, was seen by over 55 000 people worldwide, and was involved in the making of the documentary film, A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake, about the production, which is currently on the documentary film festival circuit and which was recently shown at the United Nations. She has also produced international tours of productions such as Red Earth Revisited, with Speeltheater Holland Studio, and Mother to Mother, featuring leading SA actress, Thembi Mtshali-Jones. She has directed work for both children and for adults which has performed in South Africa, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Cameroon.

Yvette is considered an expert in arts education and is a curriculum advisor, textbook writer and materials developer for both Creative & Dramatic Arts in the South African education system. She is a certified teacher of the Lessac technique of voice and body training, and has taught widely at a variety of secondary and tertiary institutions. She was Head of Drama at the National School of the Arts, where she taught theatre history, acting, directing and theatre-making between 1994 and 2003. She has an MA in Theatre Practice from Tshwane University of Technology and an undergraduate degree in Speech & Drama and Performance, from the University of Cape Town.

Motivation: I am passionate about the mission of ASSITEJ, and believe deeply in the importance of the role of theatre in the lives of children and young people. My work over the last ten years in particular has been locally about working to promote and foster a new culture of theatre for young audiences in South Africa, and internationally to find and build bridges between different parts of the world to increase understanding, intercultural exchange, and promote development in the field wherever I

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have been able to have contact with artists, funders, government, educators and other role-players. I have been privileged to play a role in leading the Executive Committee through the last two terms and would love the opportunity for a last term in which I feel that we can build on the many gains we have made and the new initiatives we have developed. Some of these include the development of new networks which are still in their embryonic stages, and the establishment of regional workshops, which has been an exciting development and intercultural exchange tool, which we hope to be able to enact even more powerfully into the future. I also feel that the presence of Africa within ASSITEJ has the opportunity to be established in a new way through the first World Congress to be held on the continent and I am determined to ensure that this becomes an established reality in the next term, with stronger African centres generally, more African representation on the Executive committee and more exchange between African artists on the continent and with the rest of the world. I am also excited to see a closer cooperation starting to happen with other international associations, and wish to further cultivate these relationships. I would also like to explore the possibility of large-scale projects in which ASSITEJ can be involved, which may lead to a change in how we consider funding our activities into the future. As we will have a new Secretary General in the next term, I feel it is also important to provide continuity in this period as we move the office of ASSITEJ again, and ensure that institutional memory is retained and that policies and procedures are properly articulated to make it easier for future leaders of the association.

For these reasons, and with the support of the ASSITEJ SA board, I therefore put myself forward to serve as President of the association for a last term: 2017-2020.